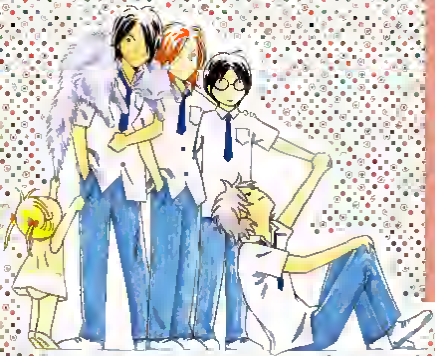
Tell it to the god of love

by Takaido Akemi



CHAPTER 3

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boo!
EEK!
Happy Halloween!
Have a haunting holiday!
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TELL IT TO THE GOD OF LOVE

CHAPTER 3

pant
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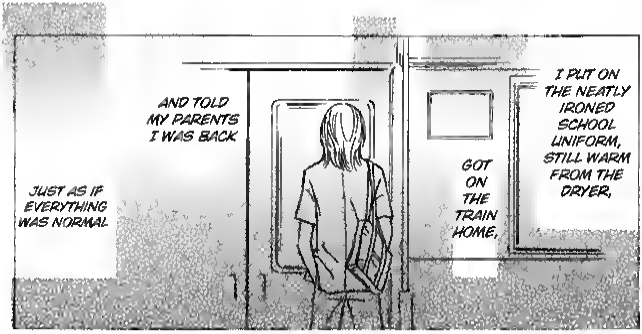
Morning!

MAKO-CHAAN! MUM SAID THE WASHING'S DONE!
I'LL GO GET IT
YESTERDAY


I PUT ON THE NEATLY IRONED SCHOOL UNIFORM, STILL WARM FROM THE DRYER,
GOT ON THE TRAIN HOME,
AND TOLD MY PARENTS I WAS BACK
JUST AS IF EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL

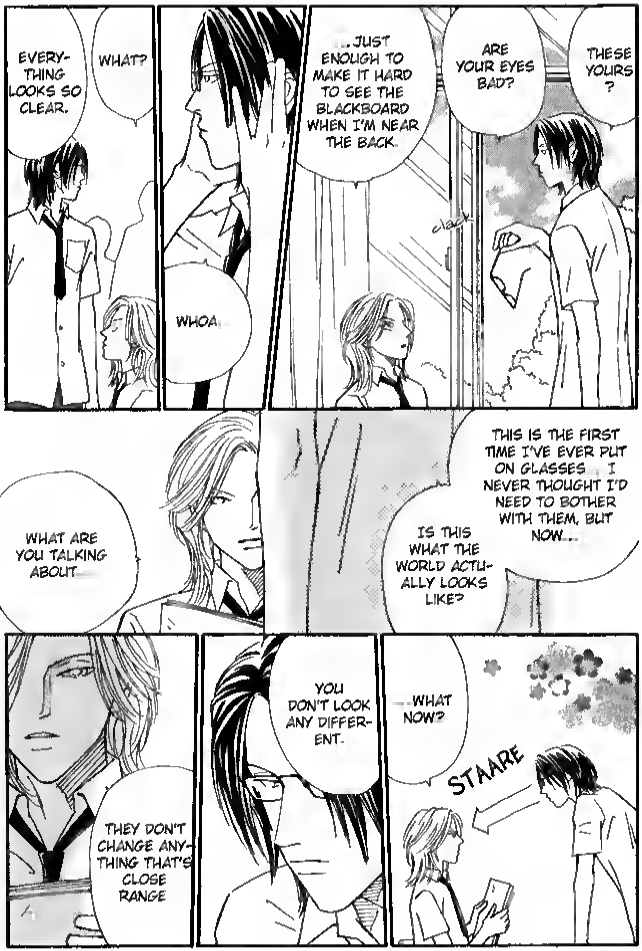
BUT

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT GUY THINK-ING—?!
coincidental

Only 3[illegible] up [illegible] minutes ago
GOOD MORNING
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...
DO YOU TAKE SHOWERS AFTER YOUR MORNING TRAINING?
HUH?
I CAN'T SEE YOU PUTTING ON YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM WHEN YOU'RE THIS SWEATY...
?!
smack

RYUUZAKI?
OH, MORNING SIR!
CLUB PRESIDENT, IT'S TIME!
NO...
IS SOMETHING WRONG...?
GOOD MORNING
OH... GOOD MORNING, SIR
...

NANAOKA
YEAH, LOOKS GOOD. DID YOU RUN IT BY THE CLUB SUPERVISOR?
7-2 YOTO


EVERY-THING LOOKS SO CLEAR.
WHAT?
WHOA
...JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE IT HARD TO SEE THE BLACKBOARD WHEN I'M NEAR THE BACK.
clack
ARE YOUR EYES BAD?
THESE YOURS ?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER PUT ON GLASSES... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D NEED TO BOTHER WITH THEM, BUT NOW...
IS THIS WHAT THE WORLD ACTU-ALLY LOOKS LIKE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
...WHAT NOW?
STAARE
YOU DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFER-ENT.
THEY DON'T CHANGE ANY-THING THAT'S CLOSE RANGE

THERE'S A MAN WEARING GLASSES REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES
THAT WOULD BE YOU
Hates to look at reflections
JAPANESE PEOPLE'S EYES AREN'T ACTUALLY BLACK LIKE WE ALWAYS CLAIM, ARE THEY...*
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LET'S TAKE THE PHOTOS HERE. IT LOOKS GOOD WITH THE GREEN IN THE BACKGROUND
Here's fine

*T/N. Japanese people say they have black eyes but in actual fact they're usually a very dark brown shade. Yato's just discovered that.

THE WORLD SURE HAS CHANGED!
OH, IT'S FOR THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER'S COUPLE CORNER.
AMAZING HOW MUCH PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE THOSE TWO HAVE GOT
Whoa!
AWW, I THINK IT'S KINDA SWEET
WHAT DO YOU GIRLS THINK ABOUT IT?
And what about club regulations?
STILL... IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW TO REACT WHEN THEY'RE THAT OPEN ABOUT IT
AH, I SHOULD'VE KNOWN
DOESN'T IT GO AGAINST THE SCHOOL RULES?
AS SOON AS YOU GET A BIT CLOSE TO TALK TO HIS BOYFRIEND, HE GLARES AT YOU
Don't encourage them—
ESPECIALLY THAT KOZAKURA, HE GETS JEALOUS REALLY EASILY
REALLY? ♥ TELL US MORE!

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S ALWAYS SITTING OUT ON SWIMMING CLASSES
REALLY?
...WELL, NO
HUH?!
YOU GUYS HAVE NEVER SEEN HIROSAKA WITHOUT HIS GLASSES ON, HAVE YOU?
NO, I KINDA GET WHAT HE SEES IN HIM.
HE'S TOTALLY OVER THE TOP
HELL YEAH I MEAN, EVEN IF I WAS CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE INTO GUYS, I'D NEVER GO FOR THAT
right?
...
...YEAH, EVEN AS A KID HE COULDN'T GO TO THE POOL
YEAH. I WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM IN THE FIRST YEAR I THINK THEY SAID HE WAS ALLERGIC TO SOMETHING— CHLORINE, I THINK?
...
IT'S ME, IT'S ME
EH? WHO?
I'M SO SORRY, SIR
YOU KNOW HE'S GOT REALLY BAD EYESIGHT, RIGHT?

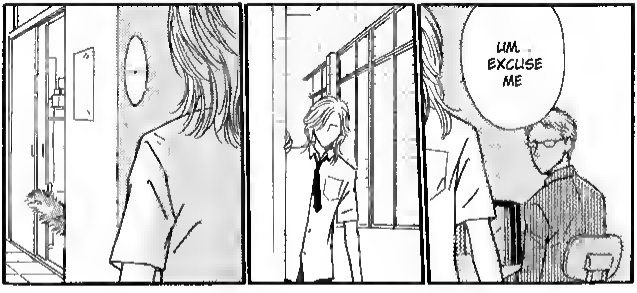
ding do-ng
ding do-ng
I GET IT NOW... THE REASON YOU LOST INTEREST IN SWIMMING.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
HE'S GOT REALLY LIGHT EYES, TOO... THE BOY'S A MYSTERY.
soothing looking eyes
ME NEITHER
IT WAS LIKE... HE COULDN'T SEE ME EVEN THOUGH HE WAS LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.

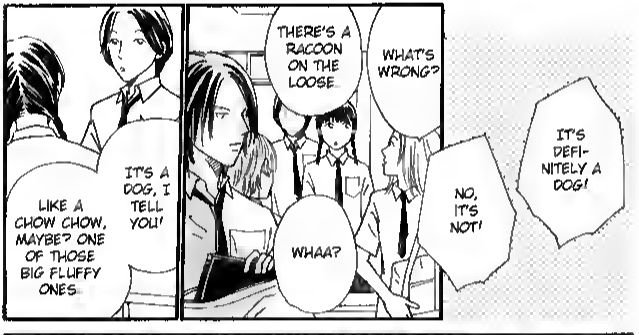
SFX sound of cicadas, indicating mid-summer

I WANT TO KNOW HOW THAT GAME GOES ON
ACTUALLY, I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT GOING TO THE POOL
WE CAN PLAY COMPUTER GAMES AGAIN WHEN YOU GET BACK
OKAY...
Hurry up, Ryuuzaki!
sigh
?

bonk
ARGH! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?!
drop
IS SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?
Er, that's what I'd like to know!
RYUU-ZAKI...?
RYUU-ZAKI?
HMM... I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE A PROBLEM GETTING THIS BUDGET.
IT'S YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH THE OTHER CLUB PRESI-DENTS, RIGHT? I HOPE IT GOES WELL.

EH?
THIS MORNING...
HUH...? NOT REALLY.
...IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
AH, SORRY. YES, SIR
OKAY. THANK Y—
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF...
NOTHING... BUT COME TO ME ANYTIME IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE CLUB
NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG?

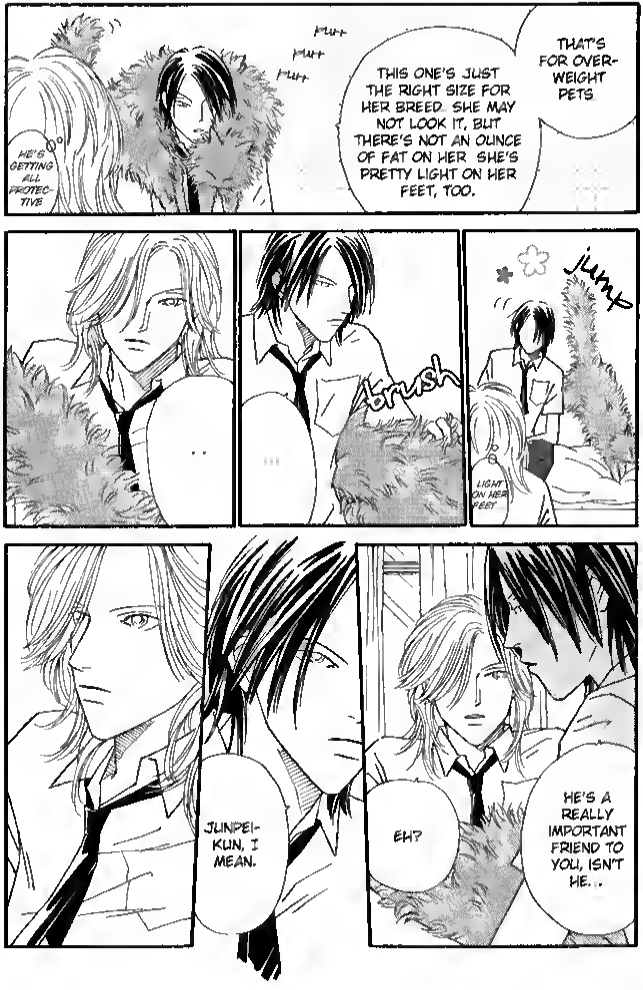

UM, EXCUSE ME


IT'S A DOG, I TELL YOU!
LIKE A CHOW CHOW, MAYBE? ONE OF THOSE BIG FLUFFY ONES...
THERE'S A RACOON ON THE LOOSE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAAT?
NO, IT'S NOT!
IT'S DEFINITELY A DOG!

SOME FIRST YEARS WERE ON ITS TRAIL, TRYING TO CATCH IT
FOR REAL?!
IT WAS WALKING DOWN THE CORRIDOR LAST I SAW
WHERE IS IT NOW?

IT MUST BE OVER THAT WAY!
RUN
RUN
DID YOU FIND IT?
Nurses office
THAT LITTLE LION OF YOURS HAS COME TO VISIT.
HEY.
...
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
...

WHERE'S THE NURSE?
DUNNO, SHE WASN'T HERE
IS THIS YOUR CAT'S USUAL ROUTE?
knead knead knead
CREAK
NO, SHE'S A HOUSE CAT SHE'S NEVER BEEN OUT BEFORE
BUT RECENTLY SHE'S
SQUISH
ISN'T SHE HEAVY?
LIKE A TON OF BRICKS.
purr purr purr purr purr
SHE USED TO SIT ON OUR SHOULDERS WHEN SHE WAS A KITTEN I DON'T THINK SHE REALISES HOW BIG SHE'S GOTTEN
THEY DO TV SHOWS ABOUT GIANT PETS. YOU COULD PUT HER ON ONE OF THOSE


HE'S GETTING ALL PROTECTIVE
MUU
MUU
MUU
THIS ONE'S JUST THE RIGHT SIZE FOR HER BREED. SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT THERE'S NOT AN OUNCE OF FAT ON HER. SHE'S PRETTY LIGHT ON HER FEET, TOO.
THAT'S FOR OVER-WEIGHT PETS.
...
brush
jump
LIGHT ON HER FEET
JUNPEI-KUN, I MEAN.
EH?
HE'S A REALLY IMPORTANT FRIEND TO YOU, ISN'T HE..

HE'S WORN GLASSES SINCE BEFORE KINDER-GARTEN, BUT HE WASN'T BORN SHORT-SIGHTED.
WHAT ..?
IT'S NOT ACTUALLY GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH AL-LERGIES
MY LITTLE SISTER'S GOT SENSITIVE SKIN AS WELL, BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE SMALL AMOUNT OF CHLORINE IN POOLS
HE GOT INVOLVED IN A CAR CRASH WITH HIS MUM WHEN HE WAS A BABY, AND ALMOST LOST HIS EYESIGHT COMPLETELY
...
THE DOCTOR ADVISED AGAINST LETTING HIM GO TO THE POOL, AS IT COULD LEAD TO EYE INFECTIONS...
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT... WITH YOU ..?
...

I WON'T PASS IT ON
THAT I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE BEFORE
SINCE YESTERDAY, I KEEP TELLING YOU STUFF
FOR SOME REASON...
I FELT LIKE I COULD TRUST THOSE WORDS
YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME THROUGH ALL OF THIS, ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE A FRIEND.
BECAUSE
NO MATTER
HOW HARD KOZAKURA TRIES, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR STATUS OF BEST FRIEND.
OF COURSE NOT...
STAYING CLOSE TO ME THE WHOLE TIME...

QUIT THINKING YOU'VE SOLVED ALL MY PROBLEMS FOR ME
THEN SURELY IT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT?
I JUST
NEED TO GET USED TO THE FACT THAT I'VE GOT LESS TIME TO SPEND WITH JUNPEI NOW
I'LL ADJUST TO IT EVENTUALLY...
I CAN FINALLY PUT THINGS INTO WORDS
THAT I DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO YESTERDAY
"TALK ABOUT IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING YOURSELF..."

IN THAT CASE, SPEND YOUR SPARE TIME WITH ME
HUH...?
TO CONTINUE THE EXPERIMENT.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW...
Step
YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT?
THAT WAS YOUR BRIGHT IDEA, NOT MINE.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T BREAK FREE THAT EASILY WE PROVED THAT AT WRESTLING CLASS.
—HEY!
GET OFF...
SHIT
...
thu-dump
thu-dump
thu-dump
thu-dump

...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE WITH THIS...?
IT'S JUST
IF I HAD TO PUT THIS FEELING INTO WORDS,
I'D SAY I'M IN LOVE...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW YET.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT I WAS.
THEN YOU MUST BE WRONG ABOUT THIS
BUT THEN...
...YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GAY.
WHY IS IT
THAT AFTER TOUCHING YOU THAT ONCE,
I KEEP THINKING THAT I WANT TO TOUCH YOU EVEN MORE?
H-HEY...!

WHOMP
YATO!
W...
WAIT...

H-HEY!
YATO..
lick
SHIVER

BAM
SA-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
IT'S TIME FOR THE CLUB PRESIDENT MEETING BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE....
2-4 Hirosaka
RUN
2-4 Hirosaka
RUN
AND SOMEONE SAID THEY SAW YOU GOING TO THE NURSES' OFFICE.
RUN
...EH?

CRAP, THE CLUB MEETING?!
HUH?
I LOST AT PAPER ROCK SCISSORS.
Nanaoka's the vice prez.
Thanks, Junpei
..I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE YOUR CLUB'S PRESIDENT TOO?
UM
SA-CHAN?